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thevalleystar.com

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BUDGET DEFICIT AFFECTS CAMPUS



CUTTING THE BOARDS - Stage crafting students Shanik Reyna Guillen (left), Veronica Vasquez (center), Tyler Hernandez (right) working on the next and possibly last project of the semester.

Facing a budget deficit of \$5.5 million, Valley College has been forced to cut 33 classes for the spring and winter semesters.

JHANELLE RIVERA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

In a sudden move to narrow a \$5.5 million budget deficit, Valley College administration has cut 33 classes and other resources that will affect its more than 18,000 students.

The cuts total \$606,470 and include hits to part-time faculty, admission, student services,

Academic Affairs, tutoring and athletics.

"There are some things that needed to be done so that Valley will not jeopardize itself in the future," said Alma Johnson-Hawkins, the interim president.

Valley's budget crisis has dramatically affected the campus across the board. Johnson-Hawkins said the college has to reduce by a "significant, sizeable amount of money." Each department slashed \$75,000 in discretionary funding, according to campus officials. As of Nov. 14, the schedule was reduced by 129 hours of instruction. Students can find the courses cut from the spring schedule online, which are

highlighted in red. Some courses include the computer applications & office technologies program, followed by two labs from the theater program. Exact numbers of part-time instructors being laid off has not yet been released.

Tutoring will experience a \$10,000 loss, and there is a \$75,000 reduction to the athletics department, which includes the elimination of track & field and cross-country teams. Johnson-Hawkins said Monarchs Stadium's track will be closed to students and the community.

After more than a decade of neglect, Valley's deficit skyrocketed from \$1.6 million to \$5.5 million since last semester, which is "the worse deficit by far," according to Vice President of Administrative Services Christopher Bonvenuto.

Uncertainty arose as officials tried to figure out how budget concerns reached this point.

"I do know Valley is one of two campuses in the district that has not been able to live within the means of the allocation that we get from our district in terms of the budget," said Karen Daar, president of academic affairs. "So that's something that the district is concerned about."

Daar clarified in an email sent to department chairs Nov. 3 that she has been directed by the district to make cuts in the

already published 2014 winter and spring schedules.

According to the email, Chancellor Adriana Barrera stated that the deadline for the mandate was Oct. 31 by which time Johnson-Hawkins was instructed to resubmit the college's multi-year budget plan that addressed the recommendations listed by the Executive Council of the District Budget Committee. The council provided a list of specifications to include a "cut list of re-examining its program and class scheduling to align with instructional budget/costs and enrollment target."

Moreover, the district

[See BUDGET, Page 2]

COMPUTER DEPARTMENT FORCED TO CUT CLASSES

Valley College's budget crisis leaves the Computer Applications and Office Technologies Department in danger of cutting classes.

EDWARD RUANO
COPY EDITOR

Due to the \$5.5 million deficit towering over Valley College, the administration has been forced to cut the track team, part-time instructors and 31 classes for spring semester.

The Computer Applications and Office Technologies Department, however, is getting the biggest hit of any department. For Annette Jennings, the department's chair for over 20 years, it has been the worst cuts she has ever seen.

"During the other cuts, when it was the state cutting out budgets, they gave a notice of how many classes needed to be cut in advance," Jennings said. "And as a chair, you can decide what two or three classes to cut. You can prepare. This was

[See Computer, Page 2]

IMPORTANT INFORMATION Emergency Cuts

**Admission and Records
Sub and Relief and OT \$11,174**

**Students Services Admin.
Student Worker
\$9,568**

**Career/Transfer
Student Worker
\$12,137**

**Library and Sciences
Instructional Supplies-restricted
funds transfer
\$69,900**

**Information Technology
Educational Software-
Restricted Funds Transfer
\$72,000**

**Academic Affairs
Educational Software-
Restricted Funds Transfer
\$59,000**

**Athletics
\$75,000**

**All Departments Discretionary
Funding
\$75,000**

**Business Office
Sub and Relief and OT
\$14,900**

**Tutoring, tutors
\$10,000**

**Total Cuts:
\$606,470**

HIV PREVENTION EDUCATION COMES IN VIAL FORM

Valley College was host to the HVI truck last Wednesday afternoon.

LAILANI PELTZ
NEWS EDITOR

More than 1.1 million people in the United States alone are infected with HIV, and almost one in five people are unaware that they have the infection, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

After representatives attended a health fair on campus, Tarzana Treatment Centers coordinated with the Student Health Center to conduct a monthly service for the public for free, anonymous, rapid results HIV testing.

This past Wednesday, a mobile service truck with two workers from the Reseda center came to Valley College to perform the testing. Hepatitis C testing was also available for those who opted for the second screening.

Gilbert Rodriguez is a health educator and HIV tester for Tarzana Treatment Centers.

"The purpose of this is to educate people about HIV and STDs or Hepatitis C," Rodriguez said.

Before proceeding, each person must sign a consent form. The testing and results are anonymous; the only information asked for the data entry sheet is the city of residence and birth date.

For people with a phobia of needles, the test is quick and relatively painless. A needle prick is administered on the pad of one finger on the non-writing hand, and results can be returned as soon as one minute if someone is HIV positive. For most, the test is completed in fewer than five minutes.

After receiving the needle poke, the blood is collected with a circular stick and dropped into a small, fluid-filled vial. The HIV and Hepatitis C testers, which tests for antibodies, seemed to resemble a home pregnancy test—sorry, men.

Knowing how HIV can be contracted is an important step in learning how to reduce the risk, also known as harm reduction.

"HIV is spread through five body fluids—cum, pre-cum, blood (which is the most dangerous and universal), vaginal secretions and breast milk," Rodriguez said. "Those body fluids need to go inside of you or inside of another human without touching the air."

Although HIV is contagious, the virus is difficult to transfer through piercings.

"It's very hard to catch [HIV] through piercings," Rodriguez said, "because if blood was to be on the needle, the virus would already be dead. If the needle had a barrel, you could get [HIV], because there's no air inside the barrel. The reason we test for Hepatitis C is [that] you have a higher risk of getting Hepatitis C through piercings, tattoos, and possibly fights."

If a person who comes in has

[See HIV, Page 2]



TESTING - Students at Valley College got tested by the HIV truck in front of the Business and Journalism building last Wednesday.

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

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SLICE IT - Veronica Vasquez using the equipment in the theater building in the stage craft room.

BUDGET

Continued from page 1

directed Valley to produce more full-time equivalent students by pushing more average class sizes to 38.2 for spring 2014 semester

and 40 for the fall. According to Daar, the classes cancelled were based upon a three-year trend of low enrollment.

Admissions has stressed that 27 hours have been added back to produce average class sizes

above 40, and an additional 39 hours of instruction will hope to be added by next week, including English, history, biology, and mathematics.

Computer

Continued from page 1

totally different. This wasn't just 'cut classes', this was 'cut specific classes'."

The Computer Department, which teaches students competency in computer skills that are becoming

increasingly vital to employment preparation, is being torn apart. Students who want to take niche courses with low enrollment sizes, such as classes teaching Microsoft Excel or the Linux Operating System, are especially out of luck — a good majority of these classes will be gone by spring.

"One way [administration] they think they can raise more money is to raise the class limits," Jennings said, referring to the new derivative from the district which mandates that the average class size must be 38 students or over, beginning spring 2014. "For each person, there is money that is given to the district from the state. So the idea is that if we get rid of low-enrolled classes, and we offer more high-enrolled classes, then maybe we can get out of this deficit. It tears programs up."

According to the spring 2014 catalogue, CAOT 009 has been cancelled, a course dedicated to computer keyboarding movements, along with CAOT 047, an applied office practice course. CAOT 085, a course dedicated to learning how to use spreadsheets, has also been axed, as well as CAOT 108, which was presentation design for the office.

Meanwhile, students are left with many questions that remain unanswered by administration.

"This is a very difficult place Valley finds itself in," said Alma-Johnson Hawkins, the interim president for Valley. "You have heard more than I have heard."

"This is only Valley... it is not Pierce, it is not Mission, it is not City College. They're all in good shape," Jennings said. "This is a cut because Valley is in the hole."

CITY BILL BACKERS HOPE TO ELIMINATE ABORTIONS AFTER 20 WEEKS

Valley College's feminist club works with Feminist Majority Foundation to spread awareness about womens rights.

CAMILA TABAR
STAFF WRITER

This week marks a defining moment in the country's stance on abortion rights. Currently in Albuquerque, New Mexico, there is a bill underway which could potentially thwart the efforts of pro-choice advocates throughout the United States.

The "Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Ordinance" seeks to make all abortions in Albuquerque after the 20-week mark illegal, providing no exceptions for instances of rape or incest. While other past attempts to criminalize abortion in the United States have been on nationwide and statewide levels, this city-level ban is the first of its kind.

President of Valley College's feminist club Minh Tran has been working with the Feminist Majority Foundation to spread awareness about what she believes is an affront on women's rights. She has been spending the last month calling potential voters in Albuquerque with hopes of swaying their votes.

"I decided to phone-bank for Feminist Majority Foundation [in the campaign against the anti-abortion bill in Albuquerque] after learning more about how this particular bill could have a negative, widespread impact on other states in the near future," Tran said. She fears that this measure could influence other cities to adopt a local approach to banning abortions and may eventually reach California.

"I think this Albuquerque bill is horribly unfair, considering that there are so many reasons why women seek abortions past 20 weeks," Tran said. "A lot of them tend to be medical reasons since it isn't until around the 21st week that a doctor can diagnose any life-threatening complications."

Albuquerque is the only city in New Mexico offering abortions after 20 weeks, as they are fairly rare in occurrence. If passed, the city measure would essentially be a ban in the state. The fate of this measure will be decided on Nov 19.

Students interested in issues concerning women's rights can attend Valley's feminist club meetings on Wednesday at 1 p.m. in Humanities Building 104 and Thursday at 5 p.m. in Behavioral Sciences Building 102.

"By being involved, [students] increase [their] chances of knowing what else is going on out there in the world that could affect [them]," Tran said. "Do something about it!"

HIV

Continued from page 1

a positive test, then a confirmatory blood draw would be taken, and he or she would be referred to a doctor if needed.

Twenty people were tested for HIV and six for Hepatitis C on Wednesday. Anyone is eligible for

testing with restrictions to those who are under 12 years of age. Women who are expecting can also receive testing.

For more information, contact the Reseda office at 818-342-5897 or visit the main website at www.tarzanatc.org. The mobile testing center will be at Valley again on Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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VALLEY BUDGET CUTS GUT STUDENTS AND STAFF

Budget cuts slash students and faculty substantially

ZAIN ABOURAIA
OPINION EDITOR

For more than a decade, Valley College has run on thin promises regarding finances and it has caught up with the campus all at once with a \$5.5 million deficit.

For more than a decade, Valley has operated in the red. There were supposed to be a series of incremental cuts over a period of years to soften the blow. That obviously is not the case when students see classes cut, departments shrunk, with a cut back on part-time faculty.

Thirty-one classes have been cut for spring semester of 2014 with none added in their place as of press time. Higher level classes, like Theater 325 that have lower enrollment figures will be cut and a possible 10 percent cut to tutoring programs leaves students who need those high level classes to get a certificate or transfer with exactly jack-squat.

A seven percent reduction to the athletics department includes discarding of the track & field and cross country teams, which is one of the moronic cuts. The ethos behind these cuts, according to the administration, is to increase efficiency by cutting costs while serving the same number of students, specifically FTES (Full Time Equivalent) students, that is every student on campus divided by fifteen units.

If this were true, then why would they cut a department that



CREDIT CRUNCH- Irrational times call for broad measures; budget cuts sever our monetary jugular vein, crippling Valley with a swift stroke.

runs on full-time students? Student athletes are required to be full time and maintain at least a 2.0 GPA in order to play sports. If they are so concerned about students and units, then shrinking a department that has more full-time students than most departments seems like buying a

new anchor when the ship is taking on water.

Instead of surgical cuts we see a drunken-blind nun with an axe swinging in one general direction. Students have a hard enough time trying to get through college, and eliminating classes and programs is

like telling them to bike to school on two flat tires.

What's next for Valley students? The college is playing musical chairs and the song is stopping more frequently with fewer chairs to take each turn. The athletic department downsizing, cutting five courses

from computer applications and office technologies department, the theater has no full time costumer and no performing arts technician.

What is coming over the horizon? We do not know, but we can fear.

ZAIN'S BRAIN ROCK FORD

Why people shouldn't judge Rob Ford for smoking crack

ZAIN ABOURAIA

People need to stop judging Toronto Mayor Rob Ford for smoking crack.

Ford has suffered abuse from the media and local politicians after months of questions after news reports of a 90-second video showing the mayor smoking out of a glass crack pipe.

"Yes, I have smoked crack cocaine," Ford said "but ... do I? Am I an addict? No." Mayor Ford admitted to using crack-cocaine after a drug investigation into Ford's friend and occasional driver, Alexander Lisi. Fresh from that humiliation, the Toronto City Council stripped Mayor Ford of his power on Monday.

Never mind the opinion of the citizens of Toronto, whether they love or hate Ford and want him made a figurehead. What matters is that he admitted to using crack after law enforcement and the combined world media hounded him with questions and allegations based on reports of a grainy flip-phone video with a resolution similar to the Apollo 11 spacecraft camera's.

This cycle tends to repeat itself whenever a scandal breaks concerning a politician or celebrity of sufficient status.

Remember when beloved Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps was photographed holding an empty, sparkling, clean bong with no flame or smoking material evident. The man won eight gold medals and set a world record for swimming, for one brief shining moment he was the fastest man in the world and the most beloved American athlete. One party, one picture and his career was ruined forever. He got up on the podium and apologized, desperately trying to salvage what was left of his living, all for not.

The best example would probably be former president Bill Clinton. The man presided over a \$69 billion government budget surplus in 1998 which was the first since 1969; he came the closest to facilitating peace in Israel since the beginning of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and could play the saxophone better than George Clinton. All of his achievements and all of his recognition as one of the finer American politicians was smashed into a million pieces because of one stain on one dress. In 1998, it came out that President Clinton was having an affair with a Whitehouse intern, Monica Lewinsky. Months of congressional investigations led to Clinton's eventual admission that he had an affair and the president of the United States was impeached for perjury and receiving a blowjob.

It reminds me of ancient cultures that used to sacrifice people to their pagan gods in hopes of a better growing season, or the Salem witch trials where people just burned women who were accused of witchcraft. It is the general tendency of people to want to sacrifice those whom society demands based on moral lapses and transgressions. The one thing people forget is, those who are vehemently against what high-profile figures do in their private life, shout and scream out of a deeply hidden desire to participate.

E-mail Zain Abouraia at Opinion@lavalleystar.com
Send general comments to valleystar@lavalleystar.com

REJECTING \$4 BILLION IS PROOVES SOCIAL MEDIA IS TRUELY WORTHLESS

First \$3 billion, then \$4 billion: what is next?

JORDAN UTLEY-TOHMSON
STAFF WRITER

Snapchat has no clear business model, no revenues and no real future generating said revenues; and yet Facebook offered co-founder Evan Spiegel an astounding \$3 billion for acquisition. He said no.

To make this even more ridiculous, Google offered \$4 billion a day later! Spiegel declined.

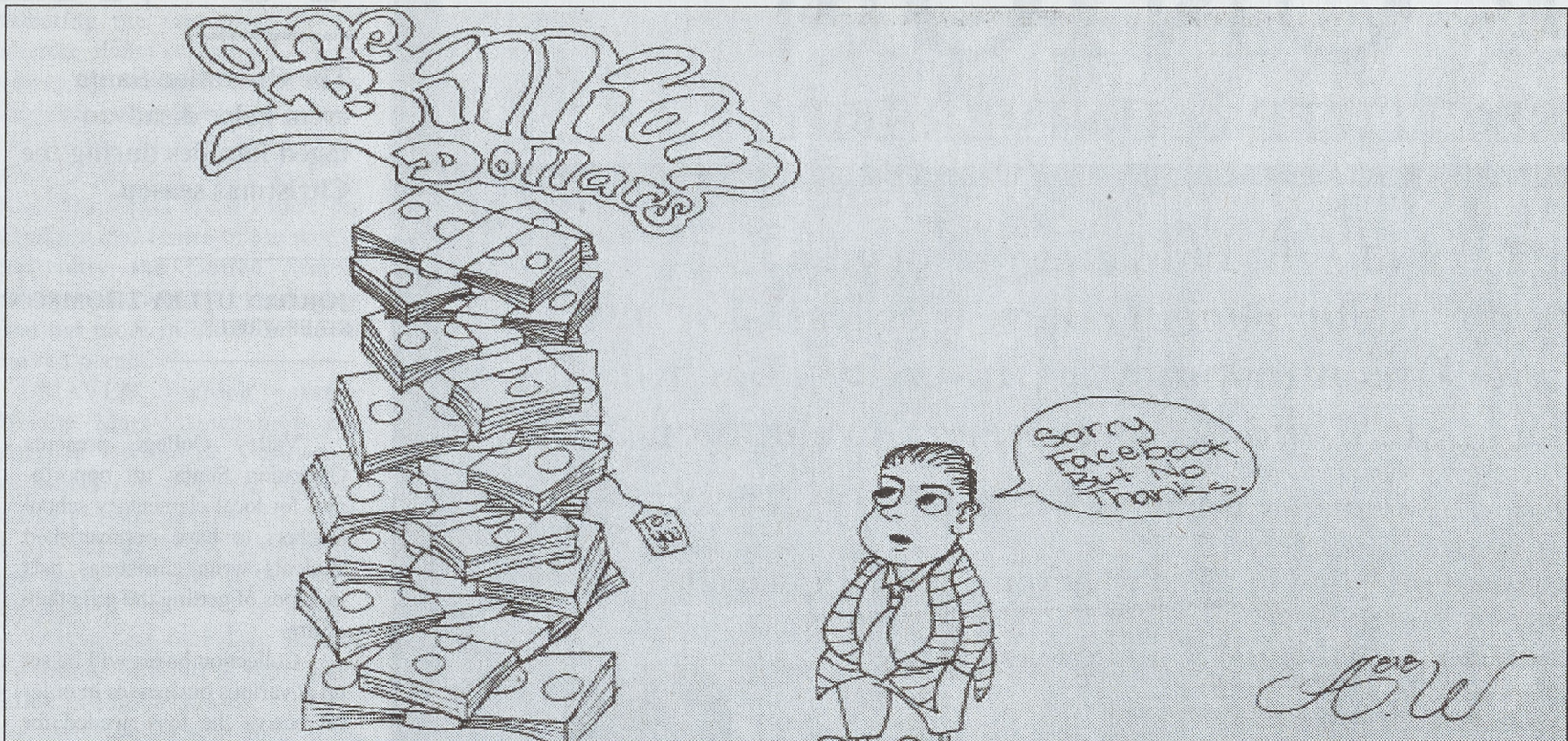
This is insane. Why is a photographic app whose defining feature disappears in under ten seconds worth so much?

Facebook is attracted to Snapchat as a way of appealing to their declining youth demographic via smartphone. However, this is a lost cause. Having a userbase that largely consists of fickle 13 to 25-year-olds is a deathknell in itself. These people have no brand loyalty. They shop for whatever is hot and abandon whatever is not.

But at least Facebook makes money. Sure, teenagers are losing interest in the social networking juggernaut, but they absolutely rake in the dough through advertising. In contrast, not a dime goes in or out of Snapchat.

And just better reason for the owners of Snapchat to take the money and run while they still can. Facebook and Google are basically throwing wads of cash at thin air.

But it doesn't matter at this point: what is the difference in



HOW MUCH? - Turning down \$3 billion and then \$4 billion? Someone needs their head examined, or maybe even a lobotomy.

a few billions? The stain of hubris on Spiegel and co-founder Bobby Murphy is strong. It is no surprise that they were fraternity brothers at Stanford University. These guys make Jay Gatsby look modest.

At this rate, Snapchat could end up like Groupon. The founders of the deal-of-the-day website had their chance to cash out when they were high on the hype cycle. They knew better than anyone else that their financial numbers were terrible. Google offered them \$6 bil-

lion in 2010. When everyone quit drinking the Kool-Aid, Groupon turned into a joke: a far cry from its former self.

And this was just three years ago. In the tech world, things rise and fall incredibly fast, especially when driven by a young userbase. Remember when MySpace was relevant? Friendster? Better question: can anyone even remember GeoCities?

All it takes for Snapchat to come crumbling down is for

word to get out that these teenage and young adult's parents are using the app. That is how shallow of a demographic that Spiegel, Murphy, Zuckerberg and all these Silicon Valley geniuses are dealing with. This is a userbase that completely eschews delayed gratification and embraces the term "on demand".

And Snapchat is not the only offender who is worth much more than it should be. Twitter lost \$64 million last quarter, and they are still worth \$13 billion. These

companies should at least make a profit before they are considered to be worth billions.

It is the late '90s all over again. Investors laugh in retrospect about the dot-com bubble, but there is another one right in front of them. The needle is coming. When this bubble bursts, the fallout is going to be legendary.

Evan Spiegel and Bobby Murphy: get out while the billions are still there.

VALLEY VIEW | VALLEY COLLEGE IS UNDERGOING MAJOR BUDGET CUTS, IF YOU WERE IN CHARGE WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



"To be honest art, cinema, music, are departments which I don't find essential."
- EDWIN RENE MOSCOSO
HEALTH ADMINISTRATION



"I would distribute funding as the departments show in success."
- CHRISTOPHER MCCREA
EMERGENCY MEDICINE



"Foodtruck and computer skills class."
- KIMMY DO
COMPUTER SCIENCE



"Nothing should be cut."
- MICHELLE CAMPOS
PSYCHOLOGY/
ANTHROPOLOGY



"I would cut funds going to the library building renovations [or any] renovations on campus."
- JEANETTE GJON
ENGLISH

MONARCHS SHOW OFF MOVES FOR DANCE DAY

Valley College puts on its dancing shoes to teach fellow Monarchs a lesson.

LEILANI PELTZ
NEWS EDITOR

Sashay, cha-cha, step or pirouette into Valley College's Dance Day. No matter how you swing it, Saturday's event was filled with fun for all 60 participants.

From 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the North Gym's Dance Studio, the public was invited to show off their dance moves or learn some new ones. Classes were \$5 each or \$20 for all day. Sponsors hoped to raise upwards of \$500.

This is the second Dance Day in two semesters that the dance program has sponsored as a fundraiser for the annual spring dance production.

Geordie Wright, a dance instructor, said Dance Day originated from several students who came up with the event during the spring 2013 semester.

Each class began with a warm-up to a fast-paced song to help get the blood flowing, followed by a one-minute routine that each instructor choreographed and demonstrated to the attendees. Once the routine was practiced, the group would perform the final piece a few times before heading to the next class.

Monica Michele Fleming, the assistant coordinator for Dance Day, has been dancing for years but only recently began receiving formal train-

ing at Valley and is grateful to those who have helped her.

"I like giving back," Fleming said. "All the teachers and staff were very encouraging. There's no judgment here, unlike if you went to a professional studio."

Eight classes were offered—three hip hop, two Zumba, and one each of salsa, jazz, and modern/contemporary.

Both students and professional instructors taught the hour-long classes.

Anthony Qureshi, a media arts post-production major, volunteered to be one of the hip hop instructors for Dance Day.

"I love teaching," Qureshi said, "and I think school is a great place to let students [learn] something fun and educational at the same time."

All-female dance classes are common, and Qureshi believes that the mind is what stops many males from attending.

"It's all a mental game," Qureshi said. "I understand that men don't like doing things that they're uncomfortable with. I encourage them to come to a class. I think they'll be surprised, and they'll learn more and do more than if they don't come."

The event was opened to the community and supported trying styles that were potentially outside of comfort zones.

"This is about community outreach and an opportunity for our students to try different genres," Wright said. "It's been a great day to celebrate dance."



Spirit Fingers - Choreographer Anthony Qureshi is teaching a group of more than 10 people a hip hop routine during Saturday's Dance Day at the North Gym. Qureshi's class is one of three hip hop instructions being offered at the event.

LEILANI PELTZ | NEWS EDITOR

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KRIS KRINGLE BRINGS CHEER TO VALLEY

The Operation Santa event helps disadvantaged families during the Christmas season.

JORDAN UTLEY-THOMSON
STAFF WRITER

Valley College presents Operation Santa: an opportunity for local elementary school teachers to have impoverished students write Christmas lists in hopes of getting the gifts they desire.

Collection boxes will be set up at various businesses in order to receive the toys needed for donations.

Additionally, Operation Santa gives the Valley neighborhood a chance to adopt a family for the holidays. Anybody can participate and choose a student to purchase gifts for them and their family.

"This really is a community event," said the coordinator of Operation Santa activities Joshua Miller.

Miller has helped out in previous years by organizing the structure of the event and will do so again this year.

The children sponsored by Operation Santa will be able to pick up their presents either at Valley or have volunteers in Santa costumes personally deliver the gifts to their homes.

Valley's Honor Society, Tau Alpha Epsilon, and North Hollywood High School's Key Club are heavily involved with the Christmas program. The two groups help run the event at Valley, set up the collection boxes and deliver the presents.

A holiday staff and faculty party will be held on Dec. 10 in support of Operation Santa. The party is open to the pub-

lic. Attendees can choose to pay either \$5 or donate an unwrapped toy. All the toys and proceeds will go towards the charity.

Operation Santa grows more successful each year. In 2010, 20 families received gifts. After coming to Valley in 2011, the number of families grew to 70, due much to the extra support provided by Valley's faculty and staff. Last year featured another increase with a greater turnout from the community.

The North Hollywood Junior Chamber of Commerce runs the program, and its former president, Wendie Wilson-Miller, was responsible for the annual event's move to Valley in 2011. Even though newly elected president Dionna Veremis is now in charge, Wilson-Miller and her husband, Joshua Miller, are still heavily involved in organizing the event.

"I am excited about kicking off Operation Santa," Miller said. "This is an example of the community getting together to help those that are less fortunate."

Bocanegra. "The world gets a little bigger when you travel."



ILLUSTRATION BY JAHSAUDI PERKINS. PHOTO EDITOR: VALLEY STAR
MISSION CLAUS - Old St. Nick prepares to bring presents to kids in need.

BUDGET CRISIS CLOSES CURTAINS ON THEATER

Valley's own Theatre Arts Department faces the slashing of classes, positions and funding.

EDWARD RUANO
COPY EDITOR

Valley College's economic crisis has raised many concerns for students across the campus, but the Theatre Arts Department in particular is facing a bloody slicing from the budget-cut axe.

Valley's \$5.5 million deficit, which cut the track and field team, 31 classes, and an unknown number of part-time instructors for the spring 2014 semester, has both expanded and damaged the theater department.

Theater 301, which surveys all stages of technical theater, and theater 325, which introduces students to specialized topics of stagecraft, have both been cancelled for the spring semester, according to the spring 2014 schedule of classes. Along with cutting these two classes that are equally fundamental to theater arts students, the department is also facing a lack of funding for equipment. The big problem; however, is that the department is missing two crucial positions — a full-time costumer and a performing arts technician.

"One of the biggest impacts for us, with the current econom-

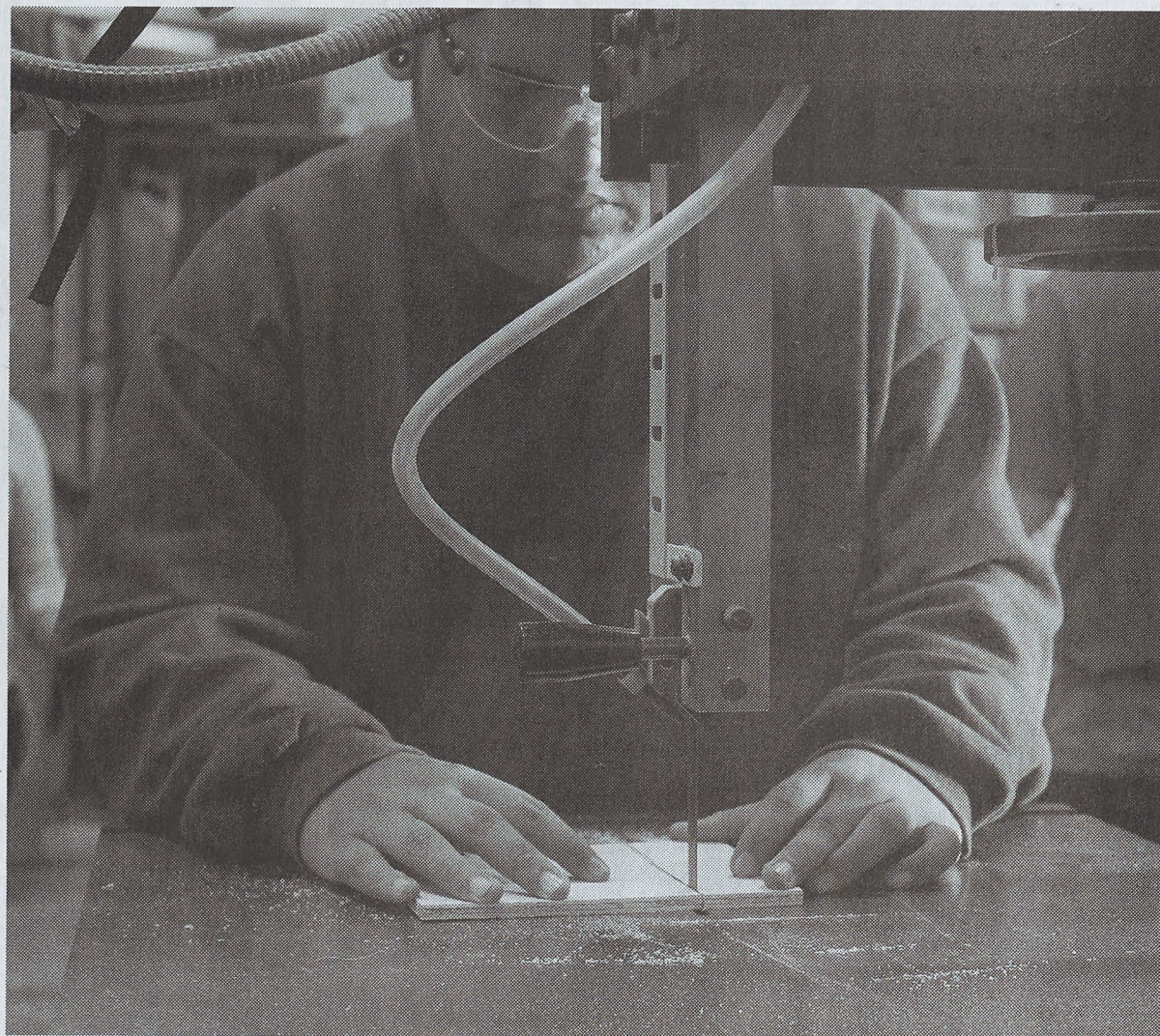
ic situation, is that we lost our full-time costumer," said Cathy Pyles, a theater arts instructor and department chair of Valley's theater arts department, "and they only permitted us to hire a part-time replacement. It's impossible to do the costumes for three to four shows a year with only

a part-time position. We should have two performing arts technicians and we have only one. They never replaced the person who retired."

What hit the department the hardest is a directive from the district, which mandated that beginning spring 2014, the average class size should be more than 38 students. What the "average class size" means is unclear to some students and instructors, but what the department knows is that having 38 plus students in each class is a problem too big to tackle.

"We have a lot of specialty courses that can't be that big. We don't have enough equipment or ladders or whiteboards to teach 38 students," Pyles said. "We don't have enough hammers and drills and saws in the scene shop, nor do we have the safety advisors or supervision to control that many students."

With the theater arts students' upcoming MUSUEM performance on Nov. 20 in the Theater Arts Building, students hope to show the administration that they are serious and passionate about their art in hopes of receiving



CUTTING DOWN -Stage craft student Jose Martinez, sawing wood in the theater building this past Tuesday.

more funding. Some students feel as though the administration has not made an effort to get involved with the department at all.

"I've never seen [the administration] walk in to see how we are," said Veronica Vasquez, a theater major. "They don't associate with us. They come, request

a special seat to watch the show and leave. All we see is a crowd of people in suits in the box office, then in their seats, and then they disappear."

Along with contacting administration directly, students of the theater arts department are working hard to put on the best shows

possible in hopes of receiving better exposure and support from the administration.

"The shows here are quite spectacular," Vasquez said. "They are really good quality because of the professors we have and the talent we have. "Why would you want to take that away?"

MONARCHS GO TO SPACE WITHOUT SHUTTLE

Valley's Astronomy Group hosts "The Fall Sky" planetarium show on Nov. 15.

ALTON PITRE
STAFF WRITER

Students visited outer space inside of the Valley College's Planetarium this past Friday in "The Fall Sky" planetarium show, hosted by Valley's astronomy group.

The show began a projection of the rising morning's east sun inside the dome of the planetarium. Exhibited were the universe's constellations and how to find them in the evening skies. Later in the show, a comedic narrative was used to create a humorous look of the ancient myths behind the naming of the constellations.

"We do a series of events to encourage participation and interest in astronomy," said Dr. David Faulk, the planetarium director and associate professor of astronomy at Valley. "For the lectures, we have guest speakers come in on selected Sundays and then we do the planetarium shows for the public. And that way, we encourage people to come in and learn about the sky."

Dr. Faulk led the show describing the planets and stars while telling occasional jokes.

"If you ever want to impress your friend and annoy your enemies, tell them look," Dr. Faulk said, referring to the planet Venus, which is 46 million miles away from Earth, but fairly close in comparison to the distance of the other planets occupying the galaxy. He described Venus as a fun planet to look at.

Aside from the constellations and the humorous tradition stories told, Faulk informed everyone of NASA's new space probe, known as MAVEN, that is on its way to Mars in hopes of

detecting the reasoning behind why the planet is losing its atmosphere, in addition to any other general data collected to better understand the planet. Ever since water was discovered on Mars years ago, it has raised the attention and desire of the world, especially the United States' government, which is anxious to find out more information about the red planet.

MAVEN, which stands for the Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution, launched on Monday and is scheduled to arrive at Mars on Dec. 14 where it will survey Mars' atmosphere and surface 37,000 miles above the planet.

According to Faulk, half of the probes sent out to Mars have failed in their attempts.

"We don't know what it is. Maybe Mars doesn't like to be investigated," Faulk said.

The majority of attendees were Valley students, who were looking to expand their knowledge about the solar system while simultaneously earning extra academic credit.

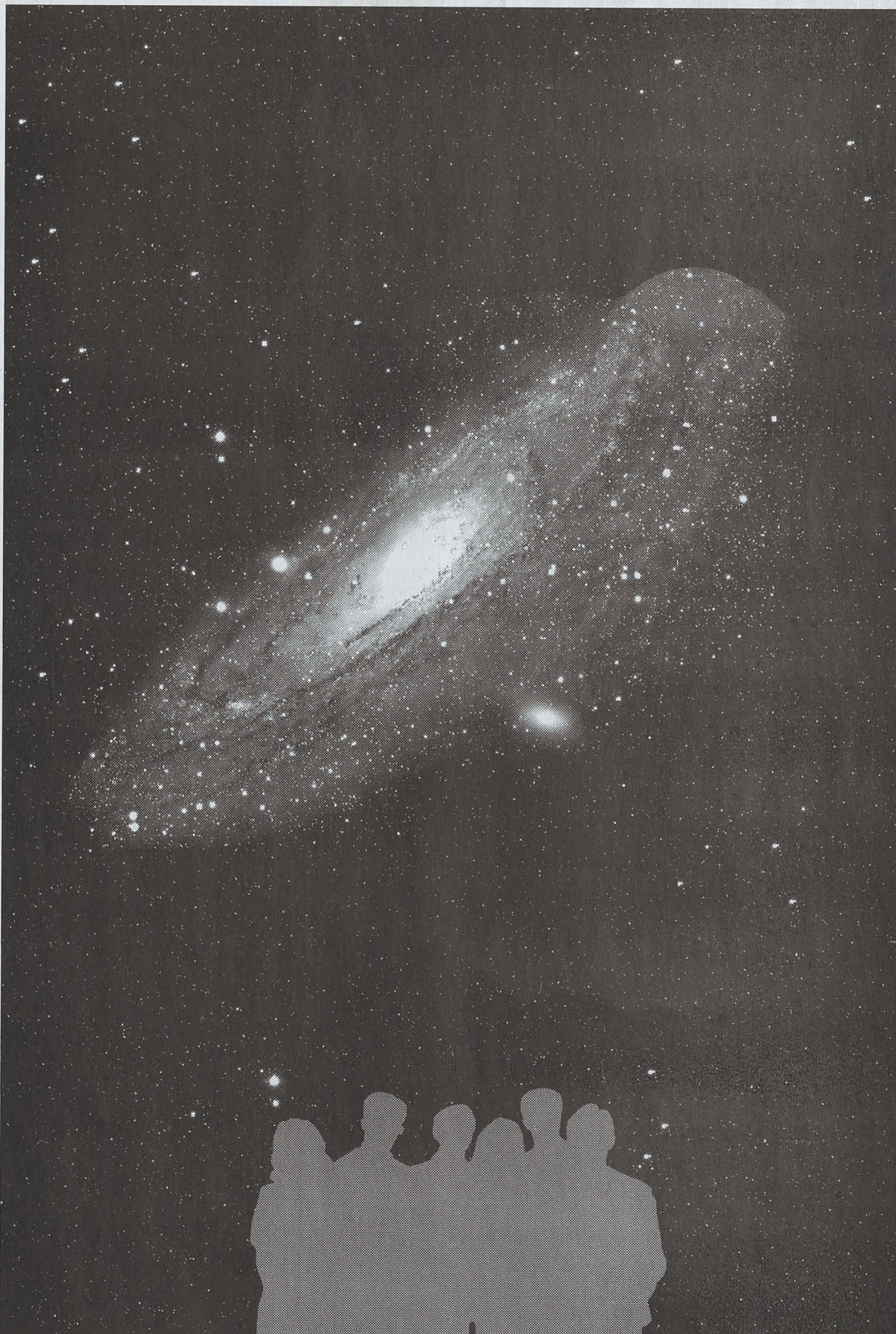
English major Gerald Ruiz was one of the many students who came out to the show.

"I learned about the constellations and what they are exactly," Ruiz said. "And the more ways to brag to my friends about what I know now about the constellations."

"It was all right," Ruiz said in responding to the comedy style used in the program. "The jokes were pretty cheesy. I wish I had some nachos with that."

The next planetarium show, "Point of No Return—Quasars and Supermassive Black Holes" will be on Dec. 6 inside the Planetarium. After each show, the Observatory is available for viewing the sky through a telescope, weather permitting.

For more information, call the Planetarium's "Hotline" (818) 947-2335 or visit <http://lavcastro-group.org/>.



STAR GAZING -Students experience a unique take on the constellations during Friday's "The Fall Sky" show. Instructor Faulk presented a comedic outlook when it came to discussing the night sky.

THE MOVIES

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ONE DIRECTION
DIANA

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- PYD(FEAT R. KELLY)-JUSTIN BIEBER
- THE MONSTER(FEAT. RIHANNA)- EMINEM
- COUNTING STARS
- ONEREPUBLIC
- DEMONS- IMAGINE DRAGONS

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JAN. 12
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THEATRE

- THE ADDAMS FAMILY: DEC. 3
- FRED KAVLI THEATRE
- PETER AND THE STARCATCHER: DEC. 3.
- AHMANSON THEATRE
- MAMMA MIA: JAN. 14
- FRED KAVLI THEATRE

BUDGET DEFICIT RUNS TRACK AND FIELD OUT OF VALLEY

Valley loses their track and field program, due to the \$5.5 million deficit.

JORGE BELON AND JORDAN UTLEY-THOMSON
STAFF WRITERS

In a budget-saving move, Valley College cut its track program in order to narrow the gap of a \$5.5 million shortfall and there are more cuts to come.

Valley has had a budget problem for more than 10 years and administrators have made the decision to eliminate classes, part-time faculty, tutors and a \$75,000 cut to the athletic program, which includes eliminating track & field and possibly cross country.

"This was not supposed to happen...there were talks of the deficit and budgets, but [the Sports Department] never thought it could happen," said the Los Angeles Valley College Athletic Director Jim Fenwick. "We would always find a way to endure, but everyone on campus has been asked to make sacrifices...one of the last things [Valley College] would want to do is drop

a sport, but with the current circumstances we had to."

According to Fenwick, track and field has been running strong since 1950. Valley has had a successful program for 63-years. Four athletes placed in the top ten in the nation in the 2012-2013 season. Additionally, the program produced an IAAF World Junior Championship title winner, pole vault athlete Kyle Ballew in 2010.

"We have had history of dropping track and field programs before, cross country was dropped back in 1994," Fenwick said. "We brought it back in 1998, so there is still hope that we will bring back the track and field program."

Athletes are now faced with the dilemma of staying at Valley or leaving in order to compete. Athletic officials say eliminating those sports could result in the loss of around 60 students.

"We weren't over budget," said pole vault coach Brooks Morris. "We weren't contributing as much as everybody else was to the \$5.5 million deficit. Why should we take the hit so damn hard?"

"It was the people up top. [Although], there's other places down low that have been hemorrhaging cash," Morris said.

Morris added that other programs were running at a deficit and they should have been cut, not track & field.

"Most of our track and field athletes are transferring out," Fenwick said. "So that means 40-50 students who could have been full time students are gone...we are losing money in that sense. But in the end, we all have to work together to get out of this deficit, we all have to sacrifice."

For those athletes who wish to continue their education at Valley, they have a chance to join the teams at West Los Angeles College.

"It's ridiculous," said freshman pole-vaulter MaKenna Powell. "I only came here to pole vault and now I can't even do that."

Part of the cuts include closing the new track facility in Monarch Stadium. It will be closed to athletes students and the community due to the cost to keep it open.

"We definitely want to bring back our prestigious track & field program back to Valley," Fenwick said, "But for the moment, we are just going have to do without it."



Nobody Home - Valley College's track & field class has been cut due to the budget deficit. The track will also no longer be available to students and the rest of the community.



TAKE IT TO THE HOLE - Monarchs forward Andrew Estes running down the court in this past Wednesday's game against Ventura College where the Monarchs lost 80-74.

PIRATES BURY MONARCHS IN PRE-SEASON OPENER

Valley College's men's basketball team loses its third pre-season game.

ROMEO GONZALEZ
SPORTS EDITOR

In a game of runs, the Valley College men's basketball team did not have enough legs or offense to beat the Ventura College Pirates Wednesday, falling 80-74.

Valley hosted the pre-season contest, which saw several lead changes but not enough teamwork to get the job done.

"We are still trying to learn each other; we have so many new guys, so many freshman," said the Monarch coach Virgil Watson. "We are still trying to build our chemistry."

The Monarchs got off to a quick start, jumping ahead 11-2 thanks to some excellent shooting by Valley forward Andrew Estes—who ended the game with 18 points. The 6-foot-3 forward was knocked down two shots from

behind the arc three minutes into the game.

"On any given night, we are trying to take advantage of who's hot or who's taking advantage of their opponent," Watson said. "We have our driver. If they (defenses) want to double him, we throw it out."

Ventura rallied to get a run of their own and took a 16-14 lead with 13:45 left to play in the first half.

It was a game of runs the first half. After the Pirates took a two-point lead, the Monarchs put together another offensive run of their own.

Estes got the Monarchs rolling after making another 3-point shot to spark the green and gold to a 6-0 run, giving the Monarchs a 22-16 with 10:30 to go before the break.

Ventura held a slim 39-36 lead at intermission.

"[Ventura] is a very good team, so they're going to make that fight to come back," Watson said. "We are learning how to make that fight together; we fought individually but we need

to fight together."

At the start of the second half, the Pirates' momentum continued. Ventura's John McMurphy—who ended the game with 15 points—hit two shots from 3-point territory to help the Pirates take a 10 point lead two minutes into the second half.

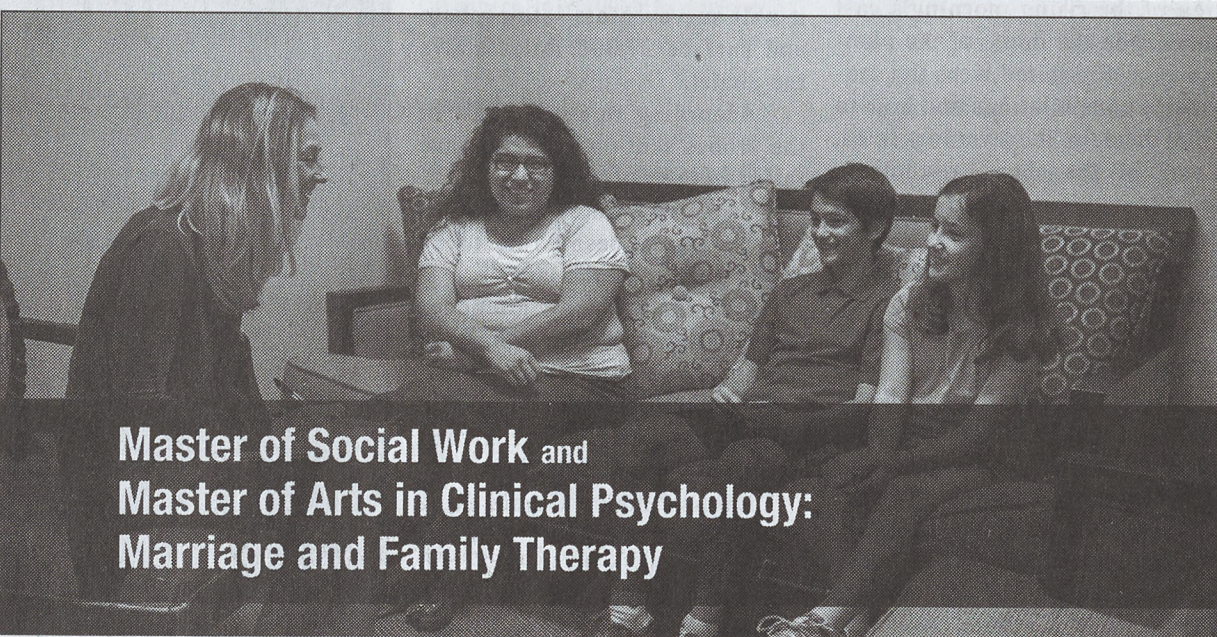
Just as in the first half, the Monarchs' offense put together an 8-0 run cutting the lead to 48-46 with four minutes into the second half.

Valley failed to take advantage of Ventura's foul trouble and missing assignment in the final 20 minutes.

The Pirates led by nine with a little over eight minutes left to play in the game. Over the next six minutes, Ventura scored two points, giving the Monarchs an opportunity to bring the game to a close 67-65.

Ventura ended the game with a 13-9 run to secure a Pirates' victory.

"Our team came together and hit some free throws," said Pirates guard Ivan Dooley. "We stayed together, taking care of the ball."



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